

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of October 29 - November 2, 2007**

1. **City Election:** The polls will be open on Tuesday, November 6, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Voting will take place in the area of the Azalea Room. Election parking will be available in the rear of the building. Handicapped parking is at the Grant Avenue entrance and at the rear entrance. Sample ballots may be reviewed at the Community Center and on the City's web page. Voters who have questions about the election or who need to request an emergency absentee ballot should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267. *(City Clerk)*

2. **Election Results:** Results of the election will be announced in the Auditorium on Tuesday evening after the votes are counted. The unofficial results will be posted to the City's web page that evening. The Board of Elections will report the certified results of the election to the City Council at a Special Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. *(City Clerk)*

3. **Reception for Kathy Porter:** Please reserve Monday, December 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. for a reception for outgoing Mayor Kathy Porter. Come celebrate her 8 years as Ward 2 Councilmember and 10 years as Takoma Park Mayor! The reception in the Community Center lobby will be followed by a resolution commending her service before the City Council. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

4. **Legislature Special Session:** The Maryland General Assembly's special session to address the state's \$1.7 billion structural deficit is in full swing. The Maryland Municipal League is asking that, as discussion continues about how to restructure the State's budget, municipalities be given the authority to choose from several means of revenue generation in order to provide basic services. Currently municipalities in Maryland must rely on property taxes almost exclusively, putting a real burden on property owners. Municipalities in other states, as well as counties in Maryland, have many more options to consider when determining how services should be funded. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

5. **Leaf Collection Starts:** The seven-week leaf collection program begins November 5. Residents on most streets can rake their leaves out to the curb at their convenience and the City crews will collect the leaves from November 5 through December 21. Please keep in mind that there are several holidays that will affect collection - Veterans's Day, observed on Monday, November 12, and Thanksgiving, on November 22 and 23. Collection on state highways (Carroll Avenue, Flower Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch Road) is scheduled for specific dates - due to high traffic volume. Those dates are November 15 and 19, and December 13 and 17. On those dates, collection is scheduled only for those streets. The leaf collection hotline is also available for residents who want to call in and report when their leaf piles are at the curb. The hotline number is 301-891-7626. *(Public Works)*

6. **The Immigration Summit:** This Thursday and Friday, (November 1 and 2), Chief Ricucci will attend the Immigration Summit in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). *(Police)*

7. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 40 traffic stops this week, which resulted in citations, one DUI arrest and one vehicle impound. *(Police)*

8. **First Time Home Buyer Class Held in Spanish (Citywide):** A First Time Home Buyer Class

in Spanish was conducted by the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) on Saturday November 27 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Speakers included representatives from a real estate agency, Bank of America and a title company. The next series of First Time Home Buyer classes will be held in April 2008. To be on the mailing list for notification, please call 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Post-Purchase Home Ownership Class - Foreclosure Prevention (Citywide): On Wednesday, November 7, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., a Post-Purchase Home Ownership Class on Foreclosure Prevention will be offered at the Community Center. The class will be informative and worthwhile for new homeowners who find their new home costs rising at a faster pace than originally expected. The class will be offered in English. To register, please call 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Crossroads Farmers Market (Ward 6): The Crossroads Farmers Market completed a successful first season this past Wednesday. Vendors sold a variety of locally grown vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers, baked goods, and ethnic foods to the community. This market is the first Farmers Market in Maryland to accept food stamps and WIC Coupons. The market is planning to re-open next Spring. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. The Sanctuary Ordinance: On Tuesday, October 30, City TV and Communications staff covered the Press Conference on the City's Sanctuary Ordinance. This is available for viewing on the website at: http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=57 and will also be replayed on City TV-13, Monday, November 5 at 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, November 8, at 1:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. *(City TV)*

12. Cavalier: As mentioned in last week's Status & Information Report, Cavalier has formalized its application for a franchise in Montgomery County with co-franchising municipalities including Takoma Park. All the official documents are posted to the County Cable Office's website at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/cableoffice/cableandinternet.asp>. The Cavalier system will only be offering services in a portion of Takoma Park. A map will be posted on the City website as soon as possible. The County Executive will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m. *(City TV)*

13. RSS Sign Up: Please visit the main page of the City's website to sign up for RSS! This new feature feeds updates in content on the main page directly to user browsers or RSS readers. Please see the website for more information. This feature is part of the efforts of the Communications team to utilize this page as the City's "Headline News" for events, announcements and updates to current projects. *(City TV)*